AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph on page 84, beginning at line 22, with the following paragraph:

To demonstrate the caspase activity in the cell lysates, 0.35 μg of N-terminal biotinylated EGKRKGDEVDGVPDRRASV (SEQ ID NO: 1) peptide (Phoenix Pharmaceuticals Inc, Belmont, CA USA) was labeled with 1 mCi of ^{32}P-γATP (PerkinElmer Life Sciences Inc, Boston, MA USA) using 250 units of Protein Kinase A catalytic subunit from bovine heart (Sigma-Aldrich Inc., St. Louis, Missouri USA) in 500 μL of HMK buffer (20 mM pH 7.5 Tris-HCl; 0.1 M NaCl; 12 mM $MgCl_2$; 1mM DTT) at 37°C for one hour. The reaction was then filtered using Sephadex G-10 Poly-Prep chromatography column (Amersham Biosciences, Inc, Piscataway, NJ, USA). The labeled peptide was coupled to 1.25 mL of streptavidin sepharose beads (Amersham Biosciences, Inc, Piscataway, NJ, USA) during 15 minutes at room temperature on a rotary mixer. The beads were washed seven times with 6 mL of 0.5M NaCl in PBS and resuspended in a total volume of 7.25 mL of 0.5 M NaCl PBS solution to which 9 mL of RPMI 1640 media was added. 96-well 0.45 μm MultiScreen-HV filter plates (Millipore, Bedford, Mass USA) were then prewetted with 200 μL of 0.5M NaCl in PBS and 40 μL of beads suspension was added to each well. Each well was washed five times with 200 μL of 0.5 M NaCl in PBS. In each well, 50 μL of cell lysate was added together with 12.5 μL of 0.5 M NaCl in 30% glycerol solution to each well. The plates were incubated at 30C with shaking at 220 rpm overnight. On the next day, the filter plates containing the beads and the extract were placed on top of 96-well sample plates (PerkinElmer Life Sciences Inc, Boston, MA USA) containing 100 μL of Optiphase SuperMix liquid scintillant fluid (PerkinElmer Life Sciences Inc, Boston, MA USA) in each well and centrifuged at 1500 rpm for 10 minutes at room temperature. The number of radioactive counts per minute (cpm) in each well of the sample plate was measured using a liquid scintillation counter (PerkinElmer Life Sciences Inc, Boston, MA USA). The potency of caspase cascade activation was determined by the percentage increase in cpm in wells compared to cells treated with dimethyl sulfoxide only. Values two fold higher (200%) than control were considered positive and demonstrated that the compound triggered caspase activation in the cells.

Please enter the Sequence Listing enclosed herewith into the application.